



**TCA**  
**Student Handbook**

Updated 2021

**ROARing Students to have  
Respect, Optimism, Achievements, and Responsibility**

Twin Cities Academy Students,

*On behalf of the faculty, we would like to welcome you to Twin Cities Academy. We are looking forward to assisting you in fulfilling your educational goals. We are committed to providing opportunities and experiences that will allow you to be your very best.*

*A contributing factor to your success is getting started the right way. The student handbook will assist you. It communicates what you may expect from the faculty at Twin Cities Academy in the way of policy, student responsibilities, and what cooperation the school expects from its students and their families in ensuring a safe, positive, and healthy experience for everyone.*

*Have a ROARing school year!*  
*TCA Staff*

*The student handbook contains policies and procedures for the school year. It is the responsibility of every student to become thoroughly acquainted with the information in this book. Please accept them and practice them as a means of enhancing the standards of quality and excellence for which we strive to maintain. Policies are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the principal and/or school board.*

## **TCA VISION & MISSION**

### **Our Mission**

To ensure that ***all*** students graduate with the skills to achieve success in college, to contribute positively to society, and to be accepting of all people.

### **Our Vision**

We serve a diverse student body to achieve success in a rigorous college preparatory program.

### ***Our Actions: How We Do It***

The education of young people requires a shared commitment by teachers, students, families and the community to the ideals of hard work, civility, responsibility, integrity, and collaboration. We emphasize having high and clear expectations, preventative teaching, high staff visibility and supervision, frequent feedback, and positive relationships. TCA students are taught to ROAR!!!!

### ***Our Values: What Guides Our Actions***

TCA's core values include the following: Respect, Optimism, Achievement, and Responsibility.

***How do we measure our academic success?*** We measure our academic success through several standardized elements. These include completion of the Minnesota State Education Standards, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment test scores that exceed State and school district performance averages, successful results on other normative-referenced tests, high graduation rates, and high college enrollment.

### ***How do we measure our non-academic success?***

We have high and clear expectations that are taught through various capacities at multiple times. In the midst of teaching the expectations, supervision also takes place to positive and corrective feedback on a constant basis. Thus, through these interactions, healthy relationships are formed between student/student, student/staff, staff/staff, staff/parents, and so on throughout the TCA community.

**ROAR**  
**Respect**  
**Optimism**  
**Achievement**  
**Responsibility**

# **TCA Tiger Creed**

**Honoring others strengthens us.  
We value RESPECT!**

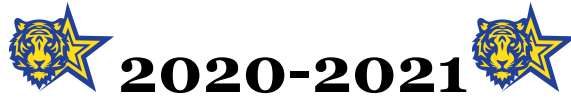
**Life is full of friends and opportunity.  
We value OPTIMISM!**

**Seeking success calls us to be the best we can be.  
We value ACHIEVEMENT!**

**Being productive brings satisfaction to our lives.  
We value RESPONSIBILITY!**

**We are TCA TIGERS!  
Hear us ROAR!**

# TCA Regular Block Schedule



Period	Lunch 1	Lunch 2	Lunch 3	Lunch 4
1 <sup>st</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Hour	9:15-10:42	9:15-10:42	9:15-10:42	9:15-10:42
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Hour with Lunch	10:52-12:56	10:52-12:56	10:52-12:56	10:52-12:56
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch: 10:52-11:20 Class: 11:21-12:46	Class: 10:52-11:20 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch: 11:21-11:49 Class: 11:50-12:46	Class: 10:52-11:49 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch: 11:50-12:18 Class: 12:19-12:46	Class: 10:52-12:18 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch: 12:19-12:47
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Hour	12:56-2:23	12:56-2:23	12:56-2:23	12:56-2:23
4 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Hour	2:33-4:00	2:33-4:00	2:33-4:00	2:33-4:00

1st - 4th Hour Mondays and Thursdays  
 5th-8th Hour Tuesdays and Fridays  
 (Unless otherwise specified due to shortened weeks)

## TCA PROGRAM OF STUDY

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
English 6 History 6 Math Science 6 World Language (or Extensions Program) Electives	English 7 History 7 Math Science 7 World Language (or Extensions Program) Electives	English 8 Geography Math Science 8 World Language (or Extensions Program) Electives

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
English 9 or English 9 Honors World History Math Integrated Science or Chemistry World Language (or Extension Program) Electives	English 10 or English 10 Honors US History or AP US History Math Chemistry or Biology or AP Biology World Language (or Extension Program) Electives	English 11, AP Language and Comp or AP Lit and Comp Civics/Economics Math Biology, Chemistry, Physics or AP Science World Language (or Extension Program) Electives	English 12, AP Language and Comp or AP Lit and Comp Senior Sem/Financial Lit Geography Math Biology, Chemistry, Physics or AP Science World Language Electives

# The Nuts & Bolts of TCA

## ABSENCES & TARDIES

### Absence Reporting Procedure

All students and their parents/guardians are responsible for the following attendance procedures:

- Parents/guardians must contact TCA at **(651) 205-4797 before 8:30 A.M.** on the day a student is absent or is going to be tardy.
- A request to leave the school premises must be accompanied with a written note or a telephone call from the parent/guardian requesting that the student be dismissed.
- **A parent/guardian must sign the student out in the front office during the school day.** If students are dropped off or picked up anytime between 8:53 A.M. and 3:40 P.M., an adult must come into the office to sign the student in or out.
- Students not returning from an appointment should have a parent/guardian call the school.
- Students who are absent at the start of the school day but arrive at a later time must check in at the office before attending any classes.
- Planned absences should be communicated to TCA in a note written by parents/guardians.
- **Students are responsible for contacting teachers about missing assignments following an absence.**

### Pre-Arrangement of Absences

Excused absences other than illness must be made in advance of the absence. Students are to bring a written note signed by their parent/guardian to the office at least one day in advance of the absence. It is preferred that if an absence is known in advance, the student begins making arrangements as far in advance as possible.

The school recognizes the right of the parent/guardian to take the student on vacation during school and the educational value of family vacations. Students are to inform the office and their teachers at least **one week** in advance. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange with their teachers to make up missed assignments.**

### Leave of Absence

Students who wish to interrupt their education at Twin Cities Academy for an academic semester or more must apply for a leave of absence. The written request submitted to the principal must include the following:

- Reason for leave of absence
- Length of time withdrawing
- Anticipated return date

A leave of absence will be considered for the following reasons:

- Student Health
- Family Relocation (Temporary)
- Other Extenuating Circumstance with Board Approval

A leave of absence will not be granted for more than two consecutive semesters. The student's grade level placement at Twin Cities Academy will be secured while they are on a leave of absence. Students on leave are readmitted to Twin Cities Academy without reapplication providing the readmission requirements have been met.

### **Readmission**

Upon readmission, student grade and course placement will be determined by documented progress made during the student's absence.

Readmission Requirements:

- Appointment with Guidance Counselor and Administrator
- Official Transcript and Records from Time of Leave
- Leave of Absence Documentation/Proof

### **Homework in Cases of Absenteeism**

The following guidelines are in effect with regard to the collection of homework by parents/guardians via the office for a child who has been absent from school:

- Parents/Guardians may request homework during their child's absence.
- Homework requests made by 10:00am may be ready at 4:00pm the same day. Requests made after 10:00am may be ready the next school day. Homework will be available in the office.

Faculty encourages students to exchange phone numbers with a fellow student, who will be able to assist them when they have been absent.

### **Make-Up Guidelines**

For unplanned excusable absences, a student who is gone will have **two** school days for each day absent from school to submit any homework that was assigned while the student was out for full credit. This does not apply when a student was in attendance the day of the assignment but absent on the due date. Assignments not turned in to the teacher within the two-day guideline may result in the assignment receiving a lower grade or no credit. See the Homework section of the handbook for more information regarding late work.

In the case of a prolonged excused absence, the teacher and student shall mutually agree on a deadline. Students being excused for a school activity are to complete all



assignments **before** the day of the activity or make arrangements with their teachers for completion deadlines..

## **Classification of Absences**

Absences are considered **excused** or **unexcused**. Excused absences:

- illness
- medical/dental appointments
- funeral services
- legal appointments
- family emergencies
- religious holidays
- family vacations

An **unexcused absence** is an absence without a valid and verified excuse from the parent/guardian or approval by the school. Forged notes and fraudulent telephone calls will result in the absence being considered unexcused. **Truancy is an unexcused absence which is by the student's own choice and neglect.** Leaving school grounds during the school day without checking out through the office constitutes truancy. Additional examples are coming to school but not attending class or obtaining a classroom pass but failing to report to the appropriate classroom. Truancy is reported to parents/guardians and the county.

The following are examples of **unexcused absences**:

- Truancy – an absence which was not approved by the parent/guardian and/or school.
- Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school's attendance policy.
- Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy.

## **Truancy Interventions and Attendance Letters**

When a student reaches **5 unexcused absences** in a calendar year, a letter will be mailed home to parents/guardians to raise awareness, encourage better attendance, and inform of county referral. A meeting may occur with the student and administration to discuss solutions.

When a student reaches **8 unexcused absences** in a calendar year, a second letter is mailed home informing parents/guardians of their student's referral to the TIP (Truancy Intervention Program) Parent Meeting. A letter will be sent from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office informing of meeting time and place. This is according to **Minn. Stat. 120.10.**

When a student reaches **12 unexcused absences** in a calendar year, a third letter is mailed home informing parents/guardians of the need to develop an In School

Attendance Contract and the identification of other school interventions to deal with attendance. An administrative conference will be held with parent, student and administration to implement the contract.

When a student reaches **15 unexcused absences** in a calendar year, the student will be referred to the TIP Student Attendance Review Team (SART). If unexcused absences continue, a request for a Truancy Petition will be sent to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

### **Tardiness**

Punctuality to class is an important characteristic all students should develop. When a student is late for class, she/he disturbs, even if in a minor way, the learning of others and disrupts his/her own learning by missing important instructional time. Excessive tardiness is considered truancy and is reportable to the County Attorney.

- Students tardy **to school** (after 8:53 A.M.) are to report to the office.
- If tardiness becomes excessive, a parent/guardian conference with the student will be held. Additional consequences may apply.

### **Student's Responsibility**

It is the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

### **Parent or Guardian's Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

## **HOMEWORK COMPLETION**

Students should anticipate having homework each evening. Students are expected to complete their homework prior to the due date. Homework assignments will be graded on the quality of answers and the quality of the work. Partial credit will be given for assignments submitted late, partially completed assignments or poor quality work.

### **Incompletes**

If the student does not have the assignment completed in class at the time it is due it is considered incomplete.

### **Late Work Policy**

Assignments not completed or turned in to the teacher on the day the assignment is due are considered late.

### **Credit**

When assignments are turned in the same day in the class in which it is due it will receive full potential credit based on quality. Assignments that are turned in after the due date will be considered late and will not receive full potential credit. Please see the course syllabus for the late work grading policy. Partial credit has a positive effect compared to receiving no credit at all.

### **Tests & Quizzes**

Make-up assessments that are not completed within a week of being administered may receive lower than the score earned due to a late grade penalty. Assessments must be completed prior to a mid-quarter or quarter time period.

### **Submission Window**

Late assignments may not be accepted once the unit of study is completed and the teacher begins a new unit of study. The last day to turn in late assignments will be the first day of the new unit unless arranged in advance with the teacher or unless specified otherwise in the Course Syllabus.

### **Labeling & Submission**

Work submitted after the due date must be labeled/noted as such and placed in the Late Work Bin. Labeling provides additional information for both the students and teachers as it pertains to work habits.

### **Homework Buddy**

Each student has the option to choose a person(s) who they feel comfortable to contact when there are questions about homework. The Homework Buddy's name is to be placed in the back of the Agenda. Students should contact their homework buddy when they have questions about homework.

## **ADVISORY**

Each student is assigned to an Advisory. Advisory is separated by grade, intending to be with the same staff through 8th grade celebration and 12th grade graduation. Advisory meets every day during 4th period (Middle School) or 5th period (High School) for a period of approximately 25 minutes. This time is used for homework help, to write goals, review progress, participate in team building activities, to work on organization and check agendas. Advisory teachers monitor the academic and behavioral progress of the students. Students are encouraged to voice any academic or personal concerns they have regarding their progress to their Advisory teacher. Parent/Guardian conferences are held with their child's Advisory teacher.

## AGENDA (STUDENT PLANNER)

All MS students are issued an Agenda. Students will record all assignments, events and activities of the day. There is a fee for replacement Agendas. The Agenda also serves as a communication tool between school & home.

## ASSESSMENT TYPES

### MCA-II

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in Math and Reading are required for all grades. These assessments are aligned with mandated state content standards. Students are assessed by proficiency and earn scores of DNM (does not meet), PM (partially meets), M (meets) or E (exceeds).

### NWEA Tests and Results

In the fall, students in grades 6-11 take the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) tests known as Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). MAP tests are used to determine instructional level and to measure academic growth in core areas from year to year. Students will be assessed in the areas of reading and mathematics.

### UNIVERSAL Tests and Results

Universal testing happens 3 times a year for grades 6-11 to monitor growth in Math and Reading. Results are used for curriculum planning and course placement.

## ATHLETICS

Twin Cities Academy offers competitive Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, and other sports. Some of our sports are offered at both the Middle School and High School levels.

**\*\*Student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 must decide prior to the start of the season which program to try out for.** If a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader tries out for a Charter Stars/High School sport and does not make the team, the athlete will no longer have the option of playing in the Middle School program due to roster deadlines.\*\*

Twin Cities Academy is a member of the LIST league (Middle School), the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and the Twin Cities Athletic Conference (TCAC). We are called the Charter Stars for High school sports and the Tigers for Middle School sports. Our middle school sports programs are co-ed.

Our Middle School Contact is Scott Lindholm (slindholm@twincitiesacaemy.org )  
Our High School Athletic Director is Victor Vondracek  
(vvondracek@twincitiesacademy.org).

The TCAHS Athletic Handbook is available to students participating in competitive athletics. The handbook informs parents/guardians and students of information pertaining to the athletic program including eligibility requirements, team selection process, code of conduct, rules, and policies.

## **Team Selection For Middle School**

*All of the following are factored in when building a team:*

- 8th graders in high academic standing\* who have not yet played a sport this school year are given first preference, followed by 7th grade. 6th grade teams also are based on academic standing when applicable.
  - \* High Academic Standing means grades of 'C-' or better in all classes. Previous grades will be checked before a student is allowed on a team.
- A student may play multiple sports during one school year.

## **Player Requirements**

TCA believes all our students deserve the opportunity to participate in our athletic offerings. We also believe that student athletes need to place academics as their top priority. To encourage student athletes to maintain good standing in all their classes, we developed the following Grade Eligibility Policy:

## **Middle School**

As a student-athlete, your child is held to the following expectations:

- Maintain a Grade of "C-" or better in ALL classes on the bi-weekly grade-checks.
- Limited Behavioral Referrals. Admin can decide if a student-athlete needs to be removed from team.
- Daily Attendance at school, practices and games. (excused absences only)

Students will become ineligible for the team if the expectations stated above are not met.

## **High School**

Student athletes must have a GPA of 2.0 or above in the quarter immediately prior to the sport season. Students with a GPA lower than 2.0 will not be eligible to tryout for or join a team.

o The only exception to this policy is for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders during fall sports. Since there is no GPA available, all student athletes that register and make a team will be academically eligible to join that team.

- Student athletes that are placed on Mandatory Office Hours at TCA will be deemed Ineligible for Athletics. Placements on these lists are based on grade reports run at each school approximately every two weeks. When a student athlete is Ineligible during one of these Grade Reporting Periods:
  - o They are not eligible to play in games and therefore should not be in uniform for home or away games.
  - o They may practice with the team so long as they develop a plan with their Coach for becoming Eligible during the next Grade Reporting Period.
  - o If a student athlete is deemed Ineligible for two consecutive Grade Reporting Periods, they are no longer eligible to practice with the team.
  - o If a student athlete is deemed Ineligible for three consecutive Grade Reporting Periods, they are no longer on the team. (Refunds for activity fees are not given in the event of a player becoming Ineligible under this policy.)
- There are four Grade Reporting Periods each quarter: Grade-Alerts, Mid-Quarters, and End-of-Quarter report card period.

All student athletes wanting to join a Twin Cities Academy High School athletic team and their parent/guardian(s) must sign an Athletic Eligibility Policy to indicate they understand and will follow this policy.

## **Academic Redemption**

Middle School: If a student-athlete has all grades back to a "C-" or better at the next grade-check, they will return to eligibility status. If the student-athlete has any grades below a "C-", they will be removed from the team.

High School: A student athlete will become Eligible when they are no longer on Mandatory Office Hours at the next Grade Reporting Period.

## **Substitutions**

TCA Middle School will generate a list of students who are interested in substituting for students who become ineligible for team participation. Students on the substitution list will be held to the same standards as other players.

# BUS RULES & EXPECTATIONS

## Transportation Policy

Twin Cities Academy relies on several modes of transportation for students including: school buses, public transportation, parent driving, student biking, walking, student driving etc. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate all requests for school bus transportation, especially for neighborhoods outside the city of St. Paul. If we are unable to route a school bus to your neighborhood, a Metro Transit Student Pass can be issued for your child upon request.

**Parent Pick-up / Drop-off:** Driving your child to or from school.

- You may drop off or pick up at the front of the building in the parking lot area. This is a one way area, please see the map. ***If you need to wait for your child longer than 5 minutes, please park in spots in the parking lot area or use other off-street parking. Waiting longer than 5 minutes will jeopardize the fire lane. You may stop, but you may not park in this area. You must remain in your car at all times when waiting for your student.***

**Handicap Accessibility:** We have designated handicap parking spaces in the front of the building.

**Metro Transit Bus Passes:** All high school students are eligible for a free Metro Transit bus pass if they would normally ride a school bus, and choose not to do so for the full year. Metro Transit bus passes can be used throughout the year and every day of the week. Please contact the Transportation Coordinator for more information about this option, instead of the school bus. This option works well for student athletes and students who participate in other after school activities on a regular basis. Middle school students may request a Metro Transit bus pass if we do not provide a school bus to their neighborhood.

**Student Parking:** Students with a license may drive to school. We require a parking permit application; see Ms. Amundson for that form. Once approved, students must park at the southwest end of the parking lot. A new application is required for each school year. Depending on the number of student drivers and spaces available, this will be a first come, first serve basis. Once the permits for the year are gone no additional permits will be issued.

**School Busing:** TCA contracts our busing services from Centerline Bus Company for our main buses. The school provides bus transportation to students as a privilege. Misconduct on the bus may result in a suspension of bus riding privileges for a day or longer. Students are expected to comply with school and bus rules while on the bus. Uncooperative and inappropriate students will not be allowed to put other students and

the driver at risk. Students riding our buses are subject to rules and regulations as set by the State of Minnesota, as well as the TCA Board. Any violation of the rules interferes with our driver's ability to provide safe transportation, which is their prime responsibility. Parents/Guardians share the responsibility for their child's conduct while on the bus. TCA reserves the right to modify consequences depending on the circumstances of the situation.

- Students who live more than a mile from school may request busing.
- The bus company makes their best attempts to locate stops no further than 1 mile from a home address.
- In order to ensure the safety of each child, the School Board has set bus behavior guidelines. See the Student Handbook on our website or request a Student Handbook from the office. Please review these guidelines with your children. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse for non-enforcement. Students violating these rules may forfeit bus riding privileges.
- Students are assigned to a specific route and stop.
- **Students are not allowed to ride a route or use a stop to which they are not assigned.**
- Bus change requests: fill out and submit a Bus Stop Change form (available on our website). All change requests must be approved by the school and the bus company. You will be notified of any changes to your stop. Most of our bus routes are full and have no space for additional riders
- Students who do not ride the bus for 10 consecutive days will be dropped from the bus route and the stop may be eliminated unless we have prior notice written notice regarding non ridership.

**Bus Stop Procedures:** Students should observe the following procedures at bus stops.

- Be at the assigned bus stop **five minutes** before the bus is scheduled to arrive, the bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Look for the bus with Minnehaha Transportation on the side.
- Stay off the road when waiting so the driver has room to stop.
- Do not wait inside a vehicle or a building until the last minute. Be outside waiting so you do not delay the entire route.
- Line up in an orderly fashion and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before boarding. Do not crowd or push.
- Use the handrail when getting on the bus. Walk up the steps one at a time.
- Have respect for people's property. Don't trample lawns, flowers, or shrubs.
- Students with bare feet will not be allowed to ride the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus
- To cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
- No harassing, fighting, intimidation or horseplay.
- Use appropriate language.
- Students should not run after the bus if they miss it.
- Do not chase the bus with your vehicle or impede the progress of the bus if your student misses the bus.



- During the winter months, anticipate bus delays due to bad weather or road conditions.

The School District will assist in solving problems at the bus stops; however, it cannot legally assume responsibility for incidents that occur.

### **Seating Procedures:**

- At all times follow the directions of the driver.
- Drivers may assign seats in the front of the bus to students with disabilities or to students who have a temporary physical impairment.
- Drivers, at their option, may also assign seats to avoid misconduct.
- Students entering the bus should go immediately to a seat without crowding, shoving or disturbing others.
- Students need to share seats with others.
- Be seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- Sit facing the front of the bus and remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door.
- Do not seat hop.
- Keep all belongings, parts of the body (legs, arms, head, etc) to yourself, inside the bus and out of the aisle.
- Do not fight, harass, intimidate nor horseplay.
- Do not throw objects in the bus or out the window.
- Do not eat nor drink on the bus.
- Do not damage nor vandalize the school bus. Restitution will be sought for damages to the bus.

### **Bus Violations and Discipline Infractions:**

The school provides bus transportation to students as a privilege. Misconduct on the bus may result in a suspension of bus riding privileges for a day or longer. Students are expected to comply with school and bus rules while on the bus. Uncooperative and inappropriate students will not be allowed to put other students and the driver at risk. Students riding our buses are subject to rules and regulations as set by the State of Minnesota, as well as the TCA Board. Any violation of the rules interferes with our driver's ability to provide safe transportation, which is their prime responsibility. Parents/Guardians share the responsibility for their child's conduct while on the bus.

### **My Stop Bus App:**

My Stop is a smart phone / tablet app you can use to track the location of your school bus!

You need to know your student ID# to track your bus information.

1. Go to your App Store and install **Versatrans My Stop**
2. Select District **Minnehaha Transportation**
3. Your username will be TCA plus your student number. **TCAXxxx**
4. Your password will be TCA plus your student number. **TCAXxxx**

**Note: My Stop will only provide bus location on Late Start days, it will not calculate whether the bus is on time.**

## **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS**

All cell phones and electronic devices (including -but not limited to- tablets, MP3 players, electronic games, earbuds, and headphones) will not be allowed during the school day between the hours of 9:15 am and 4:00 pm in common areas. These common areas include hallways, rest rooms, media centers, stairwells, assemblies, and any on campus outdoor area. Students may use their phone in the front office area during the school day if necessary. Students may use their cell phones during lunch. All other areas, including classrooms, will use cell phone signs to indicate whether cell phones can be used.

If cell phone usage is allowed in the classroom, staff will monitor that they are being used appropriately and discuss the cell phone expectations (i.e. not allowed in hallways, only in view once seated in your classroom).

When students are in a no cell phone area, all electronic devices must be turned off and stored either on the student or in their locker. Any phone or device seen or heard by a teacher at an inappropriate time will be confiscated by the teacher and turned in to administration.

## **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

MN State Law mandates that teachers and school officials report cases of suspected child abuse/neglect. This abuse may be physical, sexual or emotional. The school will report all suspected abuse.

## **CONFERENCES**

Students and Parents are expected to attend conferences on Saturday three times each school year. If Saturday attendance is not possible, the Advisory teacher and the parent should make alternate arrangements. Conferences are important for communication of academic progress, monitoring behavior and building community.

## **COUNSELING/GUIDANCE SERVICES**

Twin Cities Academy offers guidance services for academic and personal questions and concerns. Students are required to make an appointment with the school counselor,

unless it is an emergency. Appointments are expected to be scheduled outside of academic time.

## **DATA PRIVACY POLICY**

Parents/Guardians have rights under federal and state law to inspect and review student educational records maintained by the school. Parents/Guardians have the right to request an amendment to student records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.

Parents/Guardians also have the right to direct the school not to designate certain information relating to the student, including the student's name, address and telephone number, as "directory information" accessible to the public. This refusal must be made in writing and received by September 15th. It will be effective for only one school year. Parents/Guardians have the right to consent in writing before TCA discloses to the public any other information within the student's educational records. (Parental/Guardian consent may not be required for disclosure to TCA teachers, officials and certain other agencies).

A complaint for any failure to comply with the student privacy requirements of federal law may be filed with The Student and Family Education Rights and Privacy Office, U.S. Dept. of Ed., Washington D.C. 20202. A complaint must contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of the federal statute or regulations has occurred.

Photographs are taken at school activities throughout the year. Some of these photographs will be submitted to newspapers or used in TCA publications and on our website. Requests to **not** publish photographs of specific students will be honored. All requests must be in writing and sent to TCA, 690 Birmingham St., St. Paul, MN 55106.

### **Student Records**

A cumulative folder providing information about each student is kept in the school. The folder contains report card grades, attendance records, test scores, student data and other information. If a student is receiving or has received special education services, a confidential file is kept and secured in the special education office.

The collection, maintenance and use of student records is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which establishes that student records be kept confidential, that parents/guardians be allowed access to their children's educational records and that parents/guardians be allowed to challenge information kept in their children's educational records. Parents/Guardians should contact the Principal if they wish to review their child's records.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires schools receiving federal funds to “facilitate the transfer of disciplinary records, with respect to a suspension **or** expulsion, to the school in which a student seeks enrollment.”

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

We require a **TCA monogrammed** top which can be purchased from Donald’s Uniform Company. [www.donaldsuniform.com](http://www.donaldsuniform.com)  
972 Payne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55130. Toll Free: 1-800-728-8082

Twin Cities Academy is a uniform school; students are to comply with the dress code colors and selected items agreed upon. A reasonable regulation concerning dress, hairstyle, and cleanliness is vital to the individual student and to those with whom a classroom is shared. **School uniforms must be free of brand name logos and designs.** Students must also comply with the following:

- All TCA monogrammed tops must have the current logo.
- Shorts and skirts must meet the fingertip of the middle finger; with relaxed shoulders and straight fingers.
- State law requires that shoes must be worn in a public building.
  - Religious head-coverings are permitted.
  - All Headwear must be a solid color uniform color (navy, black, gold or tan).
  - Durags and Bonnets allowed in solid uniform colors (navy, black, gold or tan).
- Hooded sweatshirts are **no longer part of the uniform** on any day of the week.
- HS only: track jackets will no longer be available for sale. Students may wear track jackets with the current TCA logo if owned from previous years.

### **Top Item Choice:**

**MS Color Choices: Navy or White**

**HS Color Choice: Black or Gold**

- Monogrammed Polo Shirt Banded Bottom
- Monogrammed T-Shirt - short or long-sleeved (Sold at TCA)
- Monogrammed Polo Shirt Straight Bottom
- Monogrammed Fleece Vest - MS only
- Monogrammed Crewneck Sweatshirt
- Monogrammed track jacket with current TCA logo - HS only (no longer for sale)
- Monogrammed ¼ zip up sweatshirt
- Any TCA spirit wear or athletic shirt - Students may wear these any day of the week

## **Bottom Item Choice:**

**MS Color Choices: Navy or Khaki/Tan**

**HS Color Choices: Black or Khaki/Tan**

- Pant style can include the following: slacks, jeans, sweatpants, leggings, jeggings, athletic pants/shorts o If pants have rips/tears, need to be below fingertip-length level
- Shorts/Skorts (must meet fingertip test)
- Skirts (must meet fingertip test)

## **Shoe Choice:**

- Tennis/Athletic Shoes
- Dress Shoes – loafers, flats, etc.
- Closed-toe/heel strap sandals
- Boots

## **WHAT NOT TO WEAR! (Not in compliance with TCA’s uniform policy)**

- **Baggy or sagging pants**
- **Bandanas of any color**
- **Open toed sandals**
- **Slides – shoes must have a back**
- **Wedge or high heels**
- **Flip flops or backless sandals**
- **Outer clothing –hats, jackets, etc.**
- **Blankets**
- **Hats**

**\*\*Students in violation of the dress code may be sent to the office until proper attire is acquired. If behavior continues, students may receive an office referral or Saturday School detention.**

**\*\*FRIDAYS ARE COLLEGE WEAR DAY - Students may choose to wear a college-themed shirt on Fridays. These shirts may be hooded sweatshirts.**

## **Non-Uniform Day Attire:**

On days designated by TCA as “non-uniform” days, students are expected to demonstrate good judgement in their non-uniform choices. All clothing must be appropriate (fingertip length, belly, and chest covered) for school wear. Students found to be wearing inappropriate clothing (as deemed by the school) will receive an office referral and/or be sent home to change, and/or need to have appropriate clothes brought to school.

## **Physical Education Attire**

Students may wear the following appropriate athletic dress during gym:

- Tennis shoes
- Shorts (no wording/displays on backside of shorts)

- T-shirt of any color/logo/etc. that is school appropriate
- Jacket or sweatshirt for going outside in cooler weather

Please be considerate and remember to wash and replace PE clothes weekly, if not more often.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

### **Emergency Closings**

Emergency announcements regarding school closings, early dismissals or delayed openings are announced on TV stations KARE 11, WCCO(4), and ABC(5). These stations interrupt their normal broadcasts to announce and list school emergency closings. School closings are often listed at the bottom of the television screen. If there is a need to close school earlier in the day, we will attempt to contact parents/guardians by phone or e-mail.

### **Fire/Tornado Drills**

Students are required to be familiar with all evacuation procedures. In the event of a fire or tornado, students are expected to seek shelter in designated area with their assigned teacher. Students are required to remain with their classroom teacher during emergency situations.

### **Lockdown/Disaster**

TCA has a school lockdown procedure in the event of emergencies which jeopardize student safety. A lockdown can be used to protect people inside a facility from a dangerous external event or from an unsafe internal event. Students are expected to follow school lockdown procedures by remaining in a designated classroom and following all instructions given by the supervising teacher. Students will be informed when the school has been secured.

## **END OF QUARTER/SEMESTER EVENTS**

Student events are organized by the TCA student leadership councils and the student body per school level.

**TCA Middle School:** Students attend End of Quarter events. There are academic and behavioral parameters around eligibility for these events:

**Academic:** At the end of the week PRIOR to the End of Quarter, students must have less than 10 missing assignments for the quarter to be eligible to attend the EOQ event.

**Behavioral:** At the end of the week PRIOR to the End of Quarter, students must have less than 5 suspension days for the quarter, and no Field Trip suspensions for the quarter to be eligible to attend the EOQ event.

**TCA High School:** All students are encouraged to attend End of Semester events and celebrate with their peers and teachers. There are no academic or behavioral parameters around eligibility to attend the End of Semester events.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising opportunities for student activities and resources will occur throughout the year. All fundraising activities must be approved by the school. Students, families and community members are not allowed to seek funds on school grounds without receiving permission from the school.

## **GRADING SYSTEM AND POLICIES**

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are delivered at **nine-week** intervals during conferences. Report cards do not have to be returned to the school. Interpretation of the marks is as follows:

**A** Indicates outstanding work in the subject.

**B** Indicates above average work.

**C** Indicates average work for the grade level.

**D** Indicates a below average performance.

**F** Indicates failure. The student has not met the minimum requirements of the course, and has made no definite effort to do the assigned work in a satisfactory manner.

**I** Indicates a student has not completed all required assignments.

*A plus (+) or minus (-) sign is sometimes used with letter grades of A, B, C, D to indicate a more specific level of achievement.*

### **Weighted Grades**

TCA offers weighted grades for courses that are identified as more rigorous or academically challenging. The following courses are weighted high school courses at TCA:

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses: A grade awarded in an AP course will have one GPA point added.

- The following are AP courses offered at TCA on an annual or bi-annual basis:
  - AP US History
  - AP Biology
  - AP Chemistry
  - AP Physics
  - AP English Literature and Composition
  - AP Calculus
  - AP Calculus BC
  - AP Computer Science
  - AP Spanish
  - AP French
  - AP English Language and Composition
  - AP Art History
  
- College In The Schools (CIS) courses: A grade awarded in a CIS course will have one GPA point added.
  - The following are CIS courses offered at TCA:
    - CIS Writing Studio
    - CIS Animal Science
  
- Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) courses: A grade awarded in a course taken through a PSEO program will have one GPA point added.

The **Grading Scale** used for non-weighted courses is as follows:

Course Grade	Percent in Course	GPA Value
A	93.5 - 100+%	4.0
A-	89.5 - 93.49%	3.7
B+	86.5 - 89.49%	3.3
B	83.5 - 86.49%	3.0
B-	79.5 - 83.49%	2.7



C+	76.5 - 79.49%	2.3
C	73.5 - 76.49%	2.0
C-	69.5 - 73.49%	1.7
D+	66.5 - 69.49%	1.3
D	63.5 - 66.49%	1.0
D-	59.5 - 63.49%	0.7
F	0 - 59.49%	0.0

The **Grading Scale** used for weighted courses is as follows:

Course Grade	Percent in Course	Weighted GPA Value
A	93.5 - 100+%	5.0
A-	89.5 - 93.49%	4.7
B+	86.5 - 89.49%	4.3
B	83.5 - 86.49%	4.0
B-	79.5 - 83.49%	3.7
C+	76.5 - 79.49%	3.3
C	73.5 - 76.49%	3.0
C-	69.5 - 73.49%	2.7
D+	66.5 - 69.49%	2.3
D	63.5 - 66.49%	2.0
D-	59.5 - 63.49%	1.7
F	0 - 59.49%	0.0

### **Summative and Formative Assessments**

- Summative and formative assessments grades are weighted in the following manner and reflected in the grade book. Developmentally appropriate grading for TCA is:

- **Grades 6-8 - 50% Summative and 50% Formative**
- **Grades 9-10 - 60% Summative and 40% Formative**
- **Grades 11-12 - 70% Summative and 30% Formative**
- All Summative and Formative Assessments must be accompanied by timely and meaningful specific feedback.
- If multiple grades in a class, the teacher may elect to use the lowest grade in your class's percentages.

### **Grading Quarter and Semester**

- Grade 6, 7 and 8 - Quarterly grades
- Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 - Quarterly grades as a progress marker and semester grade as a final

### **Final Examinations**

- Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 - All classes need to have a final assessment.
- Grade 6, 7,8 - No required final semester or quarter exams

### **Progress Reports Online**

Each family will be provided with a **username and password** to access student grades through our Infinite Campus parent portal. Grades and assignments will be updated regularly by teachers and provide families with current information regarding student progress. The parent portal can be accessed by visiting [www.twincitiesacademy.org](http://www.twincitiesacademy.org). Click on the "Parents" tab on the top row, choose "Parent Portal" in the list of options, and enter your username and password. If you have questions or concerns regarding access to your parent portal account, please contact the main office.

### **Academic Alert Emails**

TCA families will receive email communication regarding their student's academic progress at grade alerts (every 2 to 3 weeks), at mid-quarter and at the end of a quarter. Paper copies of quarter grades will be distributed at quarterly conferences for quarters 1, 2, and 3, and mailed home at the end of the school year for quarter 4.

## **HALL PASSES**

Students are expected to remain in the classroom at all times unless given a hallway pass. Hallway passes will be given at teacher discretion. Students will be expected to produce a hallway pass if found in the halls during class time.

## **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

TCA implements a curriculum that is developed and delivered so that students and staff gain an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the United States. Special emphasis is placed on historical and contemporary contributions of women, men, persons with disabilities and Americans of all races and cultures to our society. These multicultural and gender fair concepts are incorporated through curriculum goals, learner outcomes and evaluations.

TCA's curriculum advisory committee will take the lead on developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating this program. To the best of our ability, the committee will be comprised of women, men, persons of color and persons with disabilities.

### **Program Goals and Objectives:**

1. Students will develop positive and realistic self concepts regardless of their gender, race, national origin or disability.
2. Students will understand and demonstrate awareness that; men and women, diverse racial/cultural groups and persons with disabilities have made valuable contributions in areas of Mathematics, Science, Literature, History, Athletics and the Arts influencing the heritage of the United States and this rich diversity enriches and strengthens our country. Curriculum content will reflect the contributions, perspectives and interests of diverse racial/ethnic groups, both genders and persons with disabilities as an integral part of the curriculum.
3. Instructional strategies will be equitable and encourage contributions from males and females, diverse racial/ethnic groups and students of diverse abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

TCA's comprehensive staff development plan shall prepare all employees to work effectively with diverse learners and to implement multicultural, gender fair approaches into the educational program.

The program will be evaluated every six years and be revised as needed to educate our students.

## **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY**

Students are encouraged to use technology in all classes. Online services and the internet are accessible on computers throughout the building, including the Computer

Lab and Media Center. The use of and access to Twin Cities Academy's Internet is a privilege, not a right. With the privilege of technology comes responsibility for its use. This includes network etiquette as well as careful and reasonable use of equipment. Students are expected to comply with the school's "*Student Computer and Internet Access Agreement*". Students who deliberately vandalize equipment or sabotage programs will lose computer privileges. Costs incurred to repair or replace equipment will be charged to the student. Inappropriate use of email, instant messaging, and/or other communication tools will not be tolerated.

Depending on the nature, degree of the violation and the number of previous violations of unacceptable use of the school's computers or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges, payment for damages and repairs, discipline under other appropriate school policies; including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

The following use of the school system and internet resources or accounts listed below are unacceptable.

- Users will not use the school system to access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, receive, transmit or distribute:
  - Obscene, abusive, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually explicit language or images
  - Information or materials that could cause damage, danger or disrupt the educational process
  - Materials that use language or images that advocate violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature) or that may constitute harassment or discrimination.
- Users will not use the school system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information or files without the permission of that person.
- Users will be held responsible for anything posted online including material deemed; defamatory, obscene, proprietary legally libelous or harassing. This includes threats or other comments posted online that could have an impact on school climate, cause a disruption in the school or threaten the safety of a student or school employee.
- Users will not use the internet too say something about someone else that's not true, impersonating another person, encouraging others to harm someone, posting obscene comments, pictures, or videos attacking other students or teachers, and other intentional acts of harassment, defamation, and libel.
- Users will not use the school system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise use another person's property without the person's

prior approval or proper citation, including downloading or exchanging pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer, and will not plagiarize works they find on the internet.

## **LIBRARY PROCEDURES & POLICIES**

TCA encourages students to read throughout the school year. All students are encouraged to use the library before school and when finished with lunch. Students can request a pass to the library and must check in with library staff upon arrival.

### **Library Hours**

- Regular library hours – with a librarian on duty-are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:15 am until 3:40 pm. (Some exceptions apply for testing days.)
- With teacher permission, students may use the library on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please be sure to have a signed library pass from your teacher.
- Many students arrive at school early. The library is available for students to check out books on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### **Library Conduct**

- Students are expected to conduct themselves using the TCA Tiger Creed, ROAR.
- The library is a place where classes are engaged in academic work. It is expected that all students will respect individuals by keeping conversations to a minimum.
- Food is not permitted in the library.
- The library is to be kept in a neat and orderly manner putting all waste in proper recycling or trash bins.

### **Circulation/Checkout Policy**

- Each student is assigned a library patron ID number.
- All books must be checked out before removal from the library.
- Students are responsible for all books and materials checked out to them.
- Students may check out books from the library for 4 weeks.
- Books may be renewed if there is no hold on them.
- Students are encouraged to return their books when finished and not wait until the book is due so that another TCA student may have the opportunity to read them.
- Students should return their book to the “Book Return Cart.”
- Students should immediately return any found books to the library.

### **Overdue Procedures**

- Students are responsible to return borrowed materials on time. In keeping with the spirit of the Tiger Creed, fines are not imposed for lateness.
- Students are charged replacement costs for materials lost or damaged.
- Yearbooks will not be distributed to students who have not returned or paid for their lost library book.

### **Library Catalog**

- The TCA library catalog is available online at <https://twincitiesacademy.follettdestiny.com/>. You can conduct book searches by selecting “Catalog”, entering the name of the book and hitting enter.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- If you wish to volunteer in the library, please see the librarian.

## **SEARCHES**

### **Lockers/Desks**

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers and desks are the property of Twin Cities Academy. At no time does Twin Cities Academy relinquish its exclusive control of lockers and/or desks provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers and/or desks may be conducted by school authorities or from a designated representative acting on behalf of administration. Any items discovered during a search that do not comply with school policies and/or law will be confiscated, the student will receive appropriate consequences as identified with school policy, and parents and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Confiscated items will be disposed of properly by Twin Cities Academy administration or law enforcement officials.

### **Personal Possessions/ Student’s Person**

The personal possessions of students and/or a student’s person may be searched when school authorities or a designated representative acting on behalf of administration have reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school policy as it pertains to drugs, weapons, contraband, etc. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

Items discovered during a search that do not comply with school policies and or law will be confiscated, the student will receive appropriate consequences as identified with school policy, and parents and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Confiscated

items will be disposed of properly by Twin Cities Academy administration or law enforcement officials.

## **LUNCH/BREAKFAST**

### **Meals**

School breakfast and lunch are catered by Lancer Dining. Menus are in compliance with State and Federal nutritional guidelines. Daily “grab and go” breakfasts will be offered each morning from 8:43-8:53 am. A daily lunch menu will be provided, as well as a salad bar option. TCA does not serve any products that contain pork, peanuts or peanut oil. With the exception of Pizza Friday - students who do not want to eat pork products should make sure to choose cheese pizza. All products are baked or steamed, never fried. Students may choose to bring a bag lunch or purchase a catered lunch. Menus are distributed monthly.

### **Special Diet**

Meal substitutions for students may be made on a case-by-case basis when supported by a statement signed by a recognized medical authority. The “special diet statement” must include: an identification of the medical or other special dietary need which restricts the student’s diet, the food or foods to be omitted from the student’s diet and the food or choice of foods that may be substituted. Special Diet Statements are available on our website.

### **Payment**

Each student receives a lunch account with a unique lunch pin. Deductions are made when students purchase a lunch, breakfast, juice, milk or ala carte items. Students and families are asked to monitor their lunch account balance regularly. To check your lunch balance, log in to your student or parent portal account at Infinite Campus, [https://mncloud3.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/twin\\_cities\\_academy.jsp](https://mncloud3.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/twin_cities_academy.jsp). Go to Food Service to see your child's balance, online payments can be made here also in the Payments section. Deposits to the account can also be made by sending cash or a check in to school and depositing it in the lock box in the office. Please make sure the cash is in an envelope with your student name and lunch pin on it. There is a \$3.00 convenience fee charged to make an electronic payment.

The parent/guardian will be notified via email when the account is at \$10.00 or less. Students will be notified verbally that their account is less than \$10.00. If the account is less than adequate to pay for lunch, a student will be allowed to charge no more than 2 meals. The school is under no obligation to continue to serve children who will not pay for their meals.

## **Free and Reduced Lunch**

Families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced cost student meals. The qualifying factors are family size and income. Applications are available in the office or on our website. *Families must re-submit their application each year and for each school that is being attended by family members.*

## **MEDICATION/FIRST AID**

Students becoming ill during the school day, except in the case of an emergency, are to report to their class and then get a pass to the office. Parents/Guardians are contacted when a student is to be sent home because of illness or injury. If they are unavailable the school will contact the person(s) listed as emergency contacts on the emergency card.

**The school secretary or administration only dispenses medications to those students with written permission from their parents/guardians and a signature from the physician and the original container of the medication.**

**All medications must be stored in the office, with the exception of inhalers and or as specified in an IEP, Section 504 plan, or IHP. Students are not permitted to keep medication in their lockers or carry medication with them throughout the school day.**

The medication must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.

Emergency contact information must be on file in case of illness or an emergency. If a parent/guardian plans to be out of town, please inform the office with contact information and identify who is responsible for the care of the student.

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of TCA to comply with federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual preference, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program.

## **SECTION 504 PLANS**

- **Purpose**



The purpose of this policy is to protect disabled students from discrimination on the basis of disability and to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.

- **Policy**

Disabled students are protected from discrimination on the basis of a disability. TCA will seek to identify, evaluate and provide a free appropriate public education to students who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations, or programs. Under this policy, a disabled student who is protected under Section 504 is one who (a) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including learning; (b) has a record of such an impairment; or (c) is regarded as having such an impairment (34 C.F.R. Section 104.3). Students may be protected from disability discrimination and be eligible for services, accommodations, or provisions of Section 504 and this policy even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- **Grievance Procedure**

Under Section 504, the school has established the following procedural safeguards for parents/guardians: (1) the right to notice of actions regarding the identification, evaluation, and placement of their child(ren); (2) the right to examine relevant records; (3) the right to impartial hearings with an opportunity for participation and representation by counsel; and (4) the right to review procedures. Parents/Guardians who have questions, comments, complaints, requests regarding disability issues, or would like further information should contact the principal regarding grievances, 651-205-4797. The principal is the school's ADA / 504 Coordinator.

## **Student Sex Nondiscrimination**

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Twin Cities Academy provides equal educational opportunity for all students and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex.

No student will be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity operated by the school on the basis of sex. It is the responsibility of every Twin Cities Academy employee to comply with this policy. The school board hereby designates its executive director as its Title IX coordinator;

**Betsy Lueth, Executive Director**  
**690 Birmingham St., St Paul, MN 55106**  
**651-205-4798**

The principal coordinates Twin Cities Academy's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. Any student, parent, or guardian having questions concerning Twin Cities Academy's application of Title IX and its regulations, compliance with these mandates or this policy should contact the Title IX coordinator at 651-205-4798. Questions relating solely to Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Reporting**

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful sex discrimination by a teacher, administrator, or other school personnel or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute unlawful sex discrimination toward a student should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school official designated by this policy or may file a grievance. Twin Cities Academy encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or school office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting unlawful sex discrimination toward a student directly to the school human rights officer.

The principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student. Any adult TCA personnel who receives a report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall inform the principal immediately.

Upon receipt of a report or grievance, the principal must notify the school human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The principal may request, but may not insist upon a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the principal to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the principal shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any report or complaint of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the principal. If the complaint involves the principal, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the school human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The school board hereby designates:

**Betsy Lueth, Executive Director**  
**690 Birmingham St., St. Paul, MN 55106**  
**651-205-4797**

as TCA's human rights officer to receive reports, complaints or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student. If the complaint involves the human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the principal.

Submission of a good faith complaint, grievance, or report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, or work assignments. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

Twin Cities Academy will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with TCA's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action and conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

- **Investigation**

The human rights officer, upon receipt of a report, complaint, or grievance alleging unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall promptly undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by TCA officials or by a third party designated by Twin Cities Academy. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, TCA should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationship between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incident occurred.

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- **Right To Alternation Complaint Procedures**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law or contacting the Office of Civil Rights for the United States Department of Education.

## **Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination**

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex and marital status pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. This includes discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. The purpose of this

policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex, parental, family or marital status. Twin Cities Academy provides equal educational opportunities for all students, and will not apply any rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status which treats students differently on the basis of sex.

Twin Cities Academy will not discriminate against any student, or exclude any student from its educational program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from, unless the student requests voluntarily to participate in a separate portion of the program or activity of the recipient.

Twin Cities Academy may require such a student to obtain the certification of a physician that the student is physically and emotionally unable to continue participation in the normal educational program or activity so long as such a certification is required of all students for other physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of the physician.

## PARENT PORTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Parents have 24/7 access to Twin Cities Academy's Parent Portal through Infinite Campus. Here, parents can check grades, breakfast and lunch balances, attendance, progress, etc.

1. Log onto [www.twincitiesacademy.org](http://www.twincitiesacademy.org) and select the "Parents" tab near the top of the page.
2. Scroll down and click on "Parent Portal".
3. You will be directed to the Infinite Campus website where you will need to enter your **username** and **password**. These will be provided for you in the beginning of the school year.
4. The first time you login your password will be your initials plus your birthdate in the following format: **<first name initial><last name initial><mmddyy>**  
You must reset your password the first time you log in.
5. Contact the Main Office if you need this information or assistance with logging in.

## PROMOTION GUIDELINES

There will be a year end review of students who should be considered for grade retention. Areas taken into consideration during the review include: attendance records, academic gains during the year, achievement test results, progress reports and whether or not retention would benefit the student.

High School students must earn adequate yearly credit and make progress towards graduation. A minimum **of 24 credits is required for graduation**, approximately 6 per school year. Each semester course passed earns .5 credit toward graduation.

## **RESIDENCY CHANGES**

Telephone and residency changes which take place during the school year are to be reported to the main office. These changes will be recorded on the student's emergency card.

## **SCHOOL VIRTUES**

The school virtues assist us in living out our school mission. Forming the acronym ROAR, our school values are Respect, Optimism, Achievement and Responsibility! The purpose of these values is to keep TCA students, faculty and community members mindful of the qualities of a good citizen. Students practice these values daily.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

### **I. Purpose**

This policy ensures that students are aware of and comply with Twin Cities Academy's expectations for student conduct. Compliance will enhance TCA's ability to maintain discipline and ensure an orderly and safe educational process. TCA will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to acceptable behavior standards established by this policy.

### **II. General Statement of Policy**

Twin Cities Academy believes that a fair and equitable instructional discipline policy will contribute to the quality of a student's educational learning experience. Therefore, this school wide instructional discipline policy has been adopted.

It is the responsibility of the school board, administrators, teachers and employees to safeguard the health and safety of each student. The school board and administrators will support school employees who, in dealing with students on disciplinary matters, act in accordance with state law and this policy.

No policy will cover all situations. Therefore, the school administrators will make a determination of consequence/disciplinary action when student actions are not specifically addressed. All actions by an administrator will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **III. Student Responsibilities**

When students conduct themselves in a safe and orderly manner, it promotes a positive school climate for everyone. As a best practice, students who are not demonstrating appropriate conduct will be asked by a teacher or administrator to correct their behavior. Students are expected to:

- Conduct yourself according to the classroom rules, or a teacher's request.
- Report to all classes on time and be prepared with all necessary materials.
- Make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school.
- Act appropriately and use respectful language in all areas of the school.
- Respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others.
- Carry your student agenda with you at all times.
- Respect and follow instructions from all adult supervisors in the building.
- Be in approved areas only, both before and after school.
- Leave the building within 5 minutes of the end of the day to catch buses, unless you are in a scheduled activity or being picked up by a parent/guardian who has not yet arrived at school.
- Dress appropriately (**in uniform**) for the school day, this includes physical education classes.
- Be aware of all school rules, policies and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them.

### **IV. Unacceptable Behaviors**

The discipline policy that follows provides examples of unacceptable behavior. Unacceptable behavior also includes violation of any local, state or federal law when appropriate. The examples in the policy are not intended to be an exclusive list. A student who engages in any unacceptable behaviors is disciplined in accordance with this policy.

This policy applies to the school building, school grounds, and school property; TCA field trips or activities; school bus stops; school buses; the area of entrance or departure from district premises or events, and all TCA-related functions. This policy also applies to student behavior that has a nexus to school property or the student's status as a TCA student. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of TCA or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.

Students are required to cooperate in all disciplinary investigations.

### **V. Disciplinary Action Options**

Twin Cities Academy's general policy is to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is at the discretion of the school administration. At a minimum, violation of school rules and/or policies will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. TCA will, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by the school administration. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:

- Student conference with teacher, Assistant Principal, counselor or other school personnel
- Parent/Guardian contact
- Parent/Guardian and/or student meeting with the teacher, team of teachers, Dean of Students or the Principal
- Confiscation of any item prohibited by, or used in violation of any school policy and/or state or federal law
- Removal from class
- Loss of school privileges
- In-school suspension
- Financial restitution
- Out-of-school suspension or Saturday School
- Modified school programs
- Referral to police, fire chief or juvenile authorities
- Expulsion/Exclusion

## **VI. Removal from Class**

Removal from class is the short-term exclusion of a student during which the school retains custody of the student. Students removed from class shall be the responsibility of the principal and/or his/her lawful designee. The removal of a student shall not exceed three consecutive class periods except under special circumstances. Students shall be removed from class only upon agreement of the appropriate teacher and principal after an informal administrative conference with the pupil. The decision of removal shall ultimately be made by the principal. Removal from class may be imposed without a conference where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to him/herself or to persons or property around him/her. The length of time removed from class shall be at the discretion of the principal after consultation with the teacher. Students shall be returned to class upon completion of the removal terms established at the informal administrative conference including, but not limited to, the completion of any make-up work.

## **VII. Suspension**

Out of school suspension is the short-term exclusion of the student from attending class or school for a period of no more than **fifteen** school days. Students may be suspended from school on the following grounds:

- Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation

- Willful conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education
- Willful conduct which endangers the students or other students or the property of the school
- Insubordination

The following procedures will be followed:

1. The student is informed of the violation by an administrator during an administrative conference. At this meeting, specific act(s) that support the violation and notice of suspension will be discussed.
2. The parents/guardians are notified by telephone whenever possible prior to the suspension and are informed as to the reasons for the dismissal. When parents/guardians cannot be contacted, the decision to send the student home, to allow the student to remain on school premises, or to refer the student to the proper authorities, will be made with consideration of the student's age, safety, maturity, and the nature of the misconduct that caused the suspension.
3. If a student is suspended, a letter will be mailed to the parents or guardians stating time, date, charge(s), and specific acts that support the charge(s) for the suspension. Procedures to be followed by the student and the parents/guardians for reinstatement will be included in the letter.
4. Students will not be permitted to participate in any school activity/function while under suspension.

### **VIII. Expulsion and Exclusion**

Serious misconduct by students may result in expulsion (up to 12 months from the date the pupil is expelled) or exclusion (for the balance of the school year). In these cases, the procedural requirements of the MN Pupil Fair Dismissal Act will be followed.

Exclusion is defined as “an action taken to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a pupil for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year.”

### **IX. Removal From School Grounds – IEP Students**

The school is committed to promoting learning environments that are safe for all members of the school community. It further believes that students are the first priority and that they should be reasonably protected from physical and emotional harm at all school locations and during all school activities. All students, including those with IEPs, are subject to the terms of the school discipline policy, unless that student's IEP or 504 Plan specifies a necessary modification.



Building level administrators have the leadership responsibility to maintain a safe, secure and orderly educational environment within which learning can occur.

Corrective action to discipline a student and/or modify a student's behavior will be taken by staff when a student's behavior violates the school's discipline policy.

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which, in the judgment of school personnel, endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, that student may be removed from school grounds in accordance with this policy.

### **X. Student Discipline Records**

The policy of Twin Cities Academy is that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records is consistent with state and federal law and district policy.

## **DISCIPLINARY PLAN AND GUIDELINES**

Every student and employee of Twin Cities Academy is entitled to learn and work in a safe school environment. To ensure this safe environment, TCA has established clear student discipline policies, consequences appropriate to behaviors, and a practice to implement these guidelines fairly.

When entering Twin Cities Academy, students signed a covenant agreement stating that they will comply with the behavioral expectations of the school. Students are expected to behave in accordance with federal, state, and local laws; school wide policies; and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. To tolerate unacceptable behavior from a few would deny the right of the majority to a full day's education.

The following plan has been developed to assist the teachers and school in handling discipline issues in a fair and consistent manner to promote a positive learning environment. It is meant to provide additional direction when initial efforts to improve student behavior are unsuccessful. These guidelines and potential consequences apply any time a student is present on school property, participating in a school-sponsored activity, or traveling in a school vehicle. Listed are the violations and recommended consequences, although all determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Minnesota State High School League consequences may also apply in accordance with its rules and policies.

Restitution or restorative justice principles may be utilized when appropriate for the disciplinary infraction. All offenses are reported to administration and documented. It is at the discretion of staff to decide if behavior warrants an infraction.

## **DISCIPLINARY DEFINITIONS**

What follows are the explanations for behaviors that result in disciplinary action.

### **TCA ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

#### **Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Twin Cities Academy defines academic dishonesty as using someone else's words, work, and/or ideas and claiming them as your own.

#### **Examples of Cheating**

- Allowing others to do an assignment or portion of assignment for you.
- Copying homework.
- Turning in someone else's work.
- Letting your science lab partner do all the work and putting your name on the final report.
- Buying a paper or project (print version or online version).
- Letting a parent or guardian complete a class project.
- Collaborating on an exam or assignment with any other person without prior approval from the instructor.
- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an exam or on an assignment.
- Pre-programming a calculator or other handheld computer device to contain answers or other unauthorized information for exams.
- Using small handheld computer devices to pull up information while taking a test, or to share questions or answers.
- Using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes, or concealed information during a test or exam.
- Taking an exam for another person or having someone take an exam for you.
- Enabling someone to copy your work.

#### **Examples of Plagiarism**

- Building on someone else's ideas without proper citations or acknowledgments.
- Paraphrasing of another person's original phrase, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.
- Copying and pasting from works of others or information found on the Internet into, for example, a word processing document, without giving proper credit to the source.

#### **Procedures for Reporting Academic Dishonesty**

1. If a staff member has belief that a student violated the academic honesty policy, they will discuss the incident with the student.
2. The staff member will give the student an Office Referral.

3. The staff member will inform the parent/guardian of the incident via phone or email.
4. The teacher will set a date and time NOT TO EXCEED 4 SCHOOL DAYS of the violation to complete an alternate assessment.
  - a. If a student fails to complete it within the stated time frame, the teacher will issue a score of zero.
  - b. An alternative assignment will earn a reduction in credit based on the incident number.
5. Administration will meet with the student during the Office Referral process. A follow-up meeting with parent(s) may be necessary to review the student's actions.
6. The violation will be entered into the student's discipline record via the Office Referral process.

### Consequences for Violations

	1 <sup>st</sup> offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> + Offenses
<b>Behavior Modification</b>	Student conferences with admin during Office Referral. Student will complete a required ethics study as part of the referral.	Student conferences with admin during Office Referral. If necessary, may also have follow-up meeting with parent(s)/guardian. May also be necessary for the student to meet with the School Counselor.	Student and parent(s)/guardian conference with administrator. Further ethics training may be required.
<b>Consequences</b> <b>**Consequences may be escalated according to the severity of the incident.</b>	*Student will have a consequence per the office referral process. *Failure to complete the ethics study may result in detention. *Student's status in honor organizations, athletics, Student Government and/or other similar organizations may be affected.	*Student will have a consequence per the office referral process. * Student's status in honor organizations, athletics, Student Government and/or other similar organizations may be affected. *Other consequences may include, but not limited to, behavior contract, and/or loss of student privileges.	*Student will be suspended. * Student's status in honor organizations, athletics, Student Government and/or other similar organizations may be affected. * Other consequences may include, but not limited to, behavior contract, and/or loss of student privileges.
<b>Documentation</b>	Offense will be recorded in official discipline record. Counselor will be notified.	Offense will be recorded in official discipline record. Counselor will be notified.	Offense will be recorded in official discipline record. Counselor will be notified.
<b>Notification</b>	Teacher will contact parent(s)/guardian.	Teacher will contact parent(s)/guardian and may be an in-person meeting with administrator.	Teacher will contact parent(s)/guardian and there will be an in-person meeting with administrator.
<b>Evaluation of Assignment</b>	Students in violation of the policy have to complete an alternative assignment within <b>4 SCHOOL DAYS</b> .  Credit to be earned on the alternative assignment will not exceed 90% of the	Students in violation of the policy have to complete an alternative assignment within <b>4 SCHOOL DAYS</b> .  Credit to be earned on the alternative assignment will not exceed 75% of the	Students receive no credit on the assignment and no opportunity for an alternative assignment.

	original assignment's score. The score will decrease by 10%.	original assignment's score. The score will decrease by 25%.	
	Failure to complete the assignment within the above timeframe will result in a score of zero.	Failure to complete the assignment within the above timeframe will result in a score of zero.	

### **Misbehaviors with Substances**

- **ALCOHOL OR CHEMICALS POSSESSION AND/OR USE**

The possession or use of any alcohol, narcotic, illegal substance, controlled substance or drug paraphernalia (including any “electronic” versions) is prohibited while on school property, participating in a school-sponsored activity, or traveling in a school bus.

Students will refrain from possessing, using, providing, consuming, transmitting, or being under the influence of chemicals, alcohol or illegal drugs, or possessing paraphernalia on school property, including school buses and at school sponsored activities. If school authorities have reason to believe that an illegal act or violation of school policy have been committed, administration or a designated representative acting on behalf of administration is authorized to search the student and his or her property or school property and confiscate any contraband. If students are suspected of being under the influence of chemicals, alcohol, or illegal drugs while at school, on school buses, or at school sponsored activities, administration or a designated representative acting on behalf of administration is authorized to detain the student and parents and law enforcement officials may be contacted. The student will receive appropriate consequences as identified with school policy.

Items discovered during a search that do not comply with school policies and or law will be confiscated, the student will receive appropriate consequences as identified with school policy and parents and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Confiscated items will be disposed of properly by Twin Cities Academy administration or law enforcement officials.

- **ALCOHOL OR CHEMICALS, POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE OR SELL**

Selling, distributing, delivery, exchanging or intending to sell, deliver, exchange or distribute any alcoholic, narcotic, illegal substance or controlled substance on school property, while participating in a school-sponsored event, or traveling in a school bus is prohibited.

- **MEDICATION MISUSE (OVER THE COUNTER AND/OR PRESCRIPTION)**

Any student in possession of or using an “over the counter” or prescription medication must do so in a manner consistent with school policy. Selling, distributing, delivering, exchanging or intending to sell, deliver, exchange or distribute any “over the counter” or prescription medication is prohibited.

- **TOBACCO USE OR POSSESSION**

TCA prohibits the use of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, dip), cigars, and pipes (including “electronic” versions of all of the above examples) for students, faculty/staff and visitors during any school related activity in school buildings, outside on school grounds including parking lots and fields, on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students and at all off campus school sponsored events.

### **DANGEROUS AND/OR NUISANCE ITEMS**

- **FIREARMS**

Minnesota state law requires that school boards expel for a period of at least one year, a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school. The definition of a firearm is found at 18 U.S. Code § 921. The school board may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

- **FIREWORKS**

Possession, distribution or use of any type of fireworks (sparklers, firecrackers, smoke bombs) or ammunition is prohibited. Use of any fireworks that creates a serious disturbance or safety hazard may be considered a violation of “Weapons, Explosives, Incendiary Devices, Ammunition, and Other Dangerous Items.”

- **NUISANCE OBJECTS**

Misuse or distribution of any object that causes distractions or a nuisance is prohibited. These objects may include, but are not limited to, laser pointers, lighters, radios, squirt guns, video games, portable media players, handheld computers, snaps, stink bombs, bolt cutters & crowbars.

- **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ITEMS**

Possessing potentially dangerous items that if misused may be considered dangerous, illegal or could possibly cause harm are prohibited. If it is discovered that a student has accidentally brought such an item to school, the student may not be considered in possession of a weapon. Nonetheless, because students are responsible for what they bring to school and possession of these items are prohibited, the consequences outlined below apply. If a student directly or

indirectly threatens another person or persons with such an object, the student will be determined to be in possession of a weapon and appropriate action will be taken in accordance with district policy.

- **WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, INCENDIARY DEVICES, AMMUNITION, & OTHER DANGEROUS ITEMS**

The possession, real or implied, of weapons, explosives, incendiary devices, ammunition or other items considered dangerous, illegal or which could cause harm, destruction or disruption is prohibited. The use or detonation of explosives, weapons, incendiary devices, ammunition or other items considered dangerous, illegal or which could cause harm, destruction or disruption is prohibited.

No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon or an item having the appearance of a weapon when in a school location, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. The school will act to enforce this policy and discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy. Law enforcement officials may be contacted.

A **“weapon”** means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile) weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

2. No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or nonfunctional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.

3. No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

**“School location”** includes any part of the school building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned, or controlled by the school, all locations of school-sponsored activities or trips, every bus stop, school bus, and school vehicle, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the school.

**"Non-student"** Any person who is not a student including, but not limited to: teachers, other staff, parents, visitors, students of other public or private schools and any person on or in the school location.

**“Possession”** means having a weapon on one’s person or in an area subject to one’s control in a school location.

### **PHYSICAL INFRACTIONS**

- **ASSAULT**  
Committing an act with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death or intentionally inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person is prohibited.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**  
Committing an assault upon another person with a weapon or an assault that inflicts great bodily harm upon another person is prohibited.
- **FIGHTING**  
Engaging in any form of fighting where blows are exchanged is prohibited.
- **PUSHING, SHOVING, SCUFFLING**  
Physical contact that could harm others, but is not defined as an assault or fighting, is prohibited.
- **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**  
Engaging in nonconsensual sexual intercourse or sexual contact with another person including intentional touching of clothing covering a person’s intimate parts, intentional removal or attempted removal of clothing covering a person’s intimate parts or clothing covering a person’s undergarments, if the action is performed with sexual or aggressive intent, is prohibited. Indecent exposure is also prohibited.

### **PROPERTY INFRACTIONS**

- **ARSON**  
The intentional setting of a fire that results in, or could have potentially resulted in, the destruction or damage to district property or other property or that endangers or potentially endangers others by means of fire is prohibited.
- **BREAKING AND ENTERING**  
Entering a secured district location, after school hours, using an unauthorized mechanism of entering is prohibited.
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHER, UNAUTHORIZED USE**  
Fire extinguishers are important tools that are needed in potentially life-threatening fires. All other uses are prohibited.

- **ROBBERY OR EXTORTION**  
Taking property from another person by use of force, threat of force compelling acquiescence, or under false pretenses is prohibited.
- **SECURITY SYSTEM TAMPERING**  
Any action that is intended to deactivate, damage or destroy any security system of the district is prohibited. This action includes, but is not limited to, the disabling of or tampering with a district security camera or an automatic locking door apparatus.
- **THEFT, RECEIVING OR POSSESSING STOLEN PROPERTY**  
The unauthorized taking, using, transferring, hiding or possessing of the property of another person without the consent of the owner or the receiving of such property is prohibited. Restitution, when appropriate, will be required.
- **TRESPASSING**  
Remaining on school property without authorization is prohibited. Students are not to go into other district buildings unless they have permission from the building administrator or attending a district-sponsored event. Any student on suspension who goes to a district location without permission is subject to being charged with trespassing and an increase in suspension time. Admitting others through a locked or secured entrance without the permission of district employees is prohibited.
- **VANDALISM, MINOR OR MAJOR ACTS**  
Littering, defacing (including placement of graffiti), cutting, damaging or destroying property that belongs to the district or other individuals/entities is prohibited. Vandalism is prohibited.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- **CELL PHONE OR ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES**  
Refer to “Cell Phone” section above.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDING DEVICE MISUSE**  
Use of any photographic or recording device, film camera, digital camera, cell phone camera and video camera that impinges upon the rights of others is prohibited. This prohibition includes the distribution or receipt of a picture(s)/recording that impinges upon the personal privacy of another. Misuse of any device in a school locker room, school bathroom or elsewhere in a way that violates the personal privacy of the individual may result in the immediate initiation of the expulsion process.



## **THREATENING AND/OR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

- **ABUSE, VERBAL**  
The use of language that is obscene, threatening, intimidating, or inflammatory or that degrades other people is prohibited. Verbal abuse may also be addressed under the guidelines for harassment and/or bullying, when appropriate.
- **BOMB THREAT OR TERRORISTIC THREAT**  
Making, publishing or conveying in any manner a bomb threat or any other type of terroristic threat pertaining to a school location or event is prohibited.
- **BULLYING OR INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOR**  
Bullying can be classified as physical harassment, verbal harassment or relational harassment. Any act of bullying, including cyber bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school property and/or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying that interferes with or obstructs the mission and/or operations of the school or the safety or welfare of the student, other students or employees.

### ***Cyber Bullying***

Cyberbullying is the use of information and technology to intimidate, harass, victimize or bully a group or individual. Cyber bullying includes willful harm inflicted through any electronic media such as e-mail, chat rooms, social media sites, discussion groups, social networking sites, pictures, short message services, instant messaging, text messages, mobile phones, pagers and defamatory websites. If the incident takes place outside of school but the impact is seen at school, the same consequences will occur as if the event took place at school.

The school administrator(s) will act to investigate all complaints of bullying, formal or informal, verbal or written and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school who is found to have violated this policy.

- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**  
Disorderly conduct is prohibited. Disorderly conduct is an act that the student knows or has reasonable grounds to know will alarm, anger, disturb, others or provoke an assault or breach of the peace. Disorderly conduct may also be engaging in offensive, obscene, abusive, boisterous or noisy conduct or gestures or offensive, obscene or abusive language tending reasonably to arouse alarm, anger or resentment in others.
- **DISRUPTIVE OR DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR**

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior is prohibited. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior is language or behavior that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school environment.

- **FIRE ALARM, FALSE**  
Intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm, fire alarm system or sprinkler system is prohibited.
- **GAMBLING**  
Gambling, including but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes or possession of gambling devices (including machines, video games and other items used to promote a game of chance) is prohibited.
- **HARASSMENT OR RETALIATION**  
Gambling, including but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes or possession of gambling devices (including machines, video games and other items used to promote a game of chance) is prohibited.
- **HAZING**  
No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, permit, condone, tolerate or engage in hazing. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act. The school will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school who is found to have violated this policy.
- **INSUBORDINATION**  
A deliberate refusal to follow an appropriate direction or to identify one's self when requested is prohibited.
- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**  
The building administrators will act to investigate all complaints of sexual harassment, formal or informal, verbal or written. They will discipline any student who has been found sexually harassing another student of the school in accordance with school policy. A report will be filed and a follow-up conducted in thirty days.
- **THREATENING GROUP ACTIVITY**  
Threatening group-related activity, the use of graffiti emblems, symbolism, hand signs, slang, tattoos, jewelry, discussion, clothing, etc. are prohibited.
- **THREATS OF PHYSICAL HARM TOWARD STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, OR OTHER PERSONS**

The use of language that is blatantly threatening or intimidating that could be interpreted as a death threat or insinuating the infliction of serious bodily harm upon students, employees or other persons is prohibited. Making comments that could be interpreted as death threats or insinuating the infliction of serious bodily harm upon students, employees or other persons is prohibited.

### **OTHER BEHAVIORS**

- **FALSE REPORTING**  
Intentionally reporting false information about the behavior of a student or employee is prohibited.
- **RECORDS OR IDENTIFICATION FALSIFICATION**  
Falsifying signatures or data, misrepresenting identity, or forging notes is prohibited.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Twin Cities Academy asks for a commitment to respectful, honest and responsible behavior. We are committed to modeling, teaching and reinforcing attitudes and behaviors that will prepare students to be productive citizens. We want our students to embody these principles in school, in their homes and in everyday life.

Finally, we ask that students behave in a manner that will not interfere with the learning process and/or endanger the safety of themselves or others. Each student is responsible for knowing the expectations of TCA, which are strictly enforced.

### **As a student, I will:**

- Continually challenge myself to push beyond what I already know and learn something new every day.
- Have a positive attitude, be enthusiastic and have fun in my new school environment.
- Give my best effort at everything I attempt.
- Participate in community service activities organized by the school.
- Be respectful of myself and others (treat every member of the TCA community with respect at all times).
- Be respectful of personal, school and community property.
- Be respectful in my use of language.
- Exhibit academic integrity.
- Maintain the cleanliness of the school.
- Arrive on time and always be prepared for class.
- Use my student agenda daily (my daily planner).
- Display responsible behavior with a cell phone.
- Honor the school dress code.

- Leave the building only with the supervision of an adult.
- Participate in school decisions if asked through the Student Council or other decision-making activities because student opinions are highly valued at TCA.

### **INTERVENTIONS/CONSEQUENCES**

I am aware that if I do not follow the above expectations, any of the consequences stated below may follow:

- Removed from class
- Loss of privilege(s)
- Office Discipline Referral
- Student conference with teacher(s)
- Parent/Guardian notification
- Student, teacher and school administration conference
- Student behavior contracts/Lunch Bunches
- Restitution (giving back something to anyone harmed)
- Suspension
- Expulsion (in consultation with Board)
- Notification of law enforcement agencies

*I may discover that Twin Cities Academy may not be the appropriate learning environment for every student. If I repeatedly misbehave or continuously contribute negatively to the school community, I may well be asked to seek another school.*

### **Helpful Hints for Student Success**

We offer these tips for students (S) and parents (P) to promote success in school:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1) Agenda:          | S – record all daily work in each class<br>P – check that it’s being used  |
| 2) Supplies:        | S – bring all necessary work materials<br>P – provide all necessary work materials                               |
| 3) Study Time:      | S – set aside the same time every day<br>P – provide a quiet place   |
| 4) Progress Report: | S – meet all make-up deadlines<br>P – look for these reports   |
| 5) Communication:   | S – ask questions; seek help<br>P – call the teacher; listen and give feedback                                   |
| 6) Involvement:     | S – learning requires active participation<br>P – be the “aware” audience  |
| 7) Learning:        | S – learning is hard; should challenge you<br>P – allow a natural progression; supportive not the problem solver |

## TEAM MEETINGS

At Twin Cities Academy we believe that communication between students, parents and the school is crucial to student learning and that we are more effective when working as a team so that both strengths and weaknesses can be shared.

### **Why Team Meetings Are Scheduled**

When multiple teachers observe academic or behavioral concerns which impact a student's success or performance at school, a team meeting is scheduled. The meeting is normally scheduled by the student's Advisory teacher. Parents may call a team meeting at anytime as well.

TCA has found the meetings to be very helpful. Students hear from the adults in their lives that they genuinely care about their success. Sometimes student have difficulty understanding how their behaviors are perceived or how their choices in school are impacting them in the long run. Often, hearing from teachers and parents helps the message become clearer.

### **Intent**

The team meeting is not intended to be punitive, but to inform, problem solve, and provide different perspectives as to what is occurring and offer strategies for improvement. Specific topics of discussion will include identifying the student's strengths, weaknesses, time management skills, attitude, organizational methods, challenges, etc.

### **What to Expect at a Team Meeting**

- The student must be present and participate in the meeting.
- A core of classroom teachers, school counselor, and the principal will typically be in attendance. *We acknowledge that this may seem overwhelming, but there is no need to be intimidated. We are here because we genuinely care about the success of the student.*
- The student will be asked to comment on his or her perspective.
- Teachers will share their observations, concerns, and offer input.
- Parents will be asked to share their observations and offer input.
- We will work together to problem solve and create an action plan to improve the current situation.
- The student's access teacher will follow up with teachers and the student to monitor student progress.

**Team meetings are held before or after school.**

## TEXTBOOKS/SCHOOL MATERIALS

Twin Cities Academy will provide students with textbooks and other materials needed for their learning experience. Students are expected to handle textbooks and other materials with care. Textbooks are expected to be covered. All textbooks and materials are expected to be returned in the same condition as when they were provided. Students will be expected to pay for the replacement cost and/or damages incurred to materials borrowed.

## **VISITORS**

All visitors must, upon entering the building, report to the office to check in and receive a name tag. The school board and administration reserves the power to give, decline, or withdraw permission for parents/guardians, alumni, and community members to visit TCA and program sites. Anyone coming into the building during school hours should have an appointment for the person they have come to visit. The school board and/or administration will make these decisions as necessary to ensure the physical and emotional safety of students and to prevent disruption to the school's programs.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

This helps build community at TCA and foster the idea of volunteering in our students. Opportunities can be found outside the main office, or by placing an inquiry with the office staff.

- Middle School-20 hours a year as a family
- High School-20 hours a year per individual student

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

Twin Cities Academy recognizes that nutrition education and physical education are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and education. The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. All students have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis. Qualified food service personnel provide students with access to a variety of nutritious and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of the students.

## **Foods and Beverages**

All foods and beverages served at TCA meet the nutrition recommendations of the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Food service personnel take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet or exceed all federal, state, and local laws and food safety guidelines.

- Students are encouraged to start each day with a healthy breakfast since children who come to school hungry may find it difficult to stay alert and learn. Lunch periods are scheduled as near the middle of the school day as possible. On an average, lunch periods are 25 minutes.
- It is a goal to provide dining areas that are attractive and include enough seating areas to accommodate all students, as well as enough serving areas so that students do not have to spend too much time waiting in line.
- Hand-washing facilities are available for students and they will be reminded to wash their hands before meals (to prevent the spread of germs and reduce the risk of illness.)
- Drinking water is available for students.
- TCA makes certain that all eligible children who qualify receive free and reduced-price meals.
- TCA ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-priced meals are not treated differently from other students nor are they easily identified by their peers.
- All child nutrition personnel have adequate training.
- TCA accommodates families to provide school meal options that are culturally sensitive and meet special dietary needs.
- Food and beverages offered will include a variety of healthy choices that are of excellent quality, appealing to students and are served at the proper temperature.
- Portion sizes are age-appropriate for middle school and high school students.
- **If food is provided for classroom celebration, it must be commercially prepared.** Classroom snacks and celebrations should reinforce the importance of healthy choices.

Students are permitted to bring a bag lunch and store it in their locker. Student lunches should be nutritious and well-balanced. Eating in classrooms during instruction is not allowed (unless teacher has specified a celebration), but students may bring a water bottle to class. **Pop is strictly prohibited.**

## **Classroom Celebrations**

As part of TCA's wellness policy, any student celebration snacks must have nutritional value. We want our students to learn healthy eating habits. *Please remember that all food brought in for classroom celebrations must be commercially prepared.*

## **Nutrition Education and Promotion**

TCA provides education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity. TCA establishes linkages between health education, physical education, school meal programs and related community service.

TCA encourages and supports healthy eating and engages in a nutrition program that is:

- Offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Part of health education classes as well as classroom instruction in other subjects, where appropriate;
- Enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant and includes participatory activities.

TCA encourages all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages. TCA does not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior.

TCA prohibits advertisements for any tobacco products, candy, fast food, or soft drinks in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or in school publications. Staff is encouraged to model good nutrition.

### **Physical Activity**

Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health education reinforces the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle. All students are provided opportunities for physical education.

The TCA Physical Education Program offers a range of activities that meet the needs, interests and abilities of all students including boys, girls, students with disabilities and students with special health care needs.

Students spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity. Staff is encouraged to model physical activity. Staff uses reasonable judgment before using physical activity or the withholding of physical activity as punishment. The teacher may restrict the student's involvement to gain control of their behavior.

### **Communication with Parents/Guardians**

TCA recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary and fundamental role in promoting and protecting their children's health and well-being. TCA supports parents'/guardians' efforts to provide a healthy diet and physical activity for their children. TCA encourages parents/guardians to pack healthy lunches, snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value. TCA supports parents'/guardians' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.



## WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

A student who intends to withdraw from school should notify the office at least **five days** before leaving. The student will receive a withdrawal slip that must be completed by all of their teachers on, or before, the last day of attendance. All books, workbooks and the student agenda must be returned. The student's locker must be cleared and left in the condition that it was issued. All outstanding financial matters must be satisfied.